

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for transmitting an identifier for the type of a generator from the regulator of the generator to a control unit of a motor vehicle having the following steps:
  - detection of a starting process of the motor vehicle and
  - automatic transmission of the identifier from the regulator via an analog signal line (11) to the control unit following the detection of the starting process.
2. The method as recited in Claim 1,  
wherein the automatic transmission of the identifier from the regulator to the control unit occurs via an analog signal line (11), which is used, following the completion of the starting process, in regulating operation for transmitting a signal describing the pulse control factor of the output stage of the regulator.
3. The method as recited in Claim 1 or 2,  
wherein the transmission of the identifier occurs in the form of a sequence, which contains information about a pulse control factor characteristic of the type of generator.
4. The method as recited in Claim 3,  
wherein the information about the pulse control factor characteristic of the type of generator is stored in the form of a multiple-bit word, prior to the initial operation of the regulator, in a nonvolatile manner in a memory associated with the regulator and is read out from the memory following the detection of a starting process and is converted following the readout into an analog signal associated with the pulse control factor.
5. A device for transmitting an identifier for the type of a generator, having
  - a generator (10),
  - a regulator (13) provided for regulating the generator and
  - a control unit (S) connected to the regulator (13) via an analog signal line (11),

- the regulator (13) being provided so as to transmit automatically the identifier via the analog signal line (11) to the control unit (S) following a detection of a starting process.
- 6. The device as recited in Claim 5,  
wherein it has a memory (16), in which an identifier for the type of generator is stored in digital form.
- 7. The device as recited in Claim 6,  
wherein the regulator (13) is provided so as to convert the identifier stored in digital form into a sequence, which contains information about a pulse control factor characteristic of the type of generator and to transmit this sequence via the analog signal line (11) to the control unit (S).
- 8. The device as recited in one of Claims 5 through 4,  
wherein it has means for detecting a starting process.
- 9. The device as recited in Claim 8,  
wherein the means for detecting a start have a sensor unit (15) containing an acceleration sensor.
- 10. The device as recited in Claim 8,  
wherein the means for detecting a start analyze the amplitude of a phase voltage.
- 11. The device as recited in Claim 8,  
wherein the means for detecting a start analyze the frequency of a phase voltage.
- 12. The device as recited in Claim 8,  
wherein the means for detecting a start analyze the voltage characteristic of the voltage provided at the terminal B+ of the generator.